

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Previously Amended): A method for corrective surgery in a human subject of a vocal cord defect being amenable to rectification by the augmentation of tissue subjacent to the vocal cord defect comprising the steps of:

- a) retrieving a plurality of viable cells from the subject;
- b) culturing the viable cells *in vitro*; and ← *could kill men here*
- c) placing an effective [-] volume of the *in vitro* cultured cells into a tissue of the subject, the tissue being located in a position subjacent to the vocal cord defect to be rectified.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the *in vitro* cultured cells are placed in the tissue of the subject by a method selected from injection, engraftment, engraftment by threading and direct placement.

B1 Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the *in vitro* cultured cells are fibroblasts.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 3 wherein said fibroblasts are derived from a tissue selected from the group consisting of dermis, fascia, connective tissue and lamina propria.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the *in vitro* cultured cells are adipocytes.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the cultured cells are suspended in a collagen or modified collagen solution prior to injection.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the cells are cultured in a collagen or modified collagen matrix.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 7 wherein the cells and the matrix are placed in the tissue by injection.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 7 wherein the cells and the matrix ~~matrix~~ are placed in the tissue by engraftment.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein serum from the subject is used for *in vitro* culture of the cells.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the *in vitro* cultured cells are washed in phosphate buffered saline before being placed into the tissue of the subject.

Claims 12-15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method for corrective surgery in a human subject of a vocal cord defect being amenable to rectification by the augmentation of tissue subjacent to the vocal cord defect comprising the steps of:

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- a) retrieving a plurality of viable cells from the subject;
 - b) culturing the cells *in vitro* in a culture vessel for a time sufficient for the cells to produce extracellular matrix;
 - c) separating the extracellular matrix produced by the cells from the culture vessel;
 - d) collecting the extracellular matrix; and
 - e) placing the collected extracellular matrix into a tissue subjacent to the vocal cord defect in the subject.

Claim 17 (Original): The method of claim 16 wherein the extracellular matrix is exposed to a hypotonic solution prior to being placed into the tissue subjacent to the vocal cord defect.

Claim 18 (Canceled)

Claim 19 (Previously Amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the autologous *in vitro* cultured cells are placed in a site of the vocal cord selected from the group consisting of a scar, Reinke's space, a muscle of the vocal cord, and the lamina propria.

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Claim 20 (Canceled)

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Cancel Claim 21 (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the extracellular matrix is placed into a tissue selected from the group consisting of a scar, Reinke's space, a muscle of the vocal cord, and the lamina propria.
